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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7563

INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0117

RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 0084

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 000208

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SCA: REOTT, EUR-RPM: COPE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/01/2019 TAGS: <u>AF PREL MOPS MARR PO</u>

SUBJECT: PORTUGAL'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO AFGHANISTAN

REF: A. SECSTATE 31102

1B. LISBON 182
1C. LISBON 183

Classified By: Pol/Econ Counselor Richard Reiter for 1.4 (b,d)

(C) Portugal currently contributes to ISAF two OMLTs (one deployed, another preparing to deploy), a medical unit for twelve months in Kabul, plus a commitment to contribute a C-130 for three months to support Afghan elections. Portuguese Prime Minister Socrates announced April 3 at the NATO Summit that Portugal would double its presence on the ground in Afghanistan, but neither he nor other GOP officials have been able to clarify specifically what this commitment means -- whether further OMLTs or a redeployment of the QRF company that Portugal withdrew from Afghanistan in August 12008. As GOP plans are refined, post will report septel. We do not expect further Portuguese contributions to be deployed until after Portugal's national elections in September/October.

For more reporting from Embassy Lisbon and information about Portugal, please see our Intelink site:

http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/portal:port ugal

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